

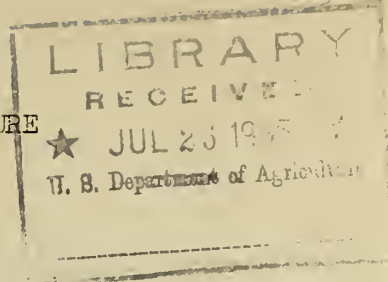
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BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



ESTABLISHMENT

The Bureau of Home Economics was established July 1, 1923, by the inclusion in the Agricultural Appropriations Bill for 1924 (covering period from July 1, 1923 to June 30, 1924) of a clause which read as follows:

"To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to investigate the relative utility and economy of agricultural products for food, clothing, and other uses in the home, with special suggestions of plans and methods for the more effective utilization of such products for these purposes, and to disseminate useful information on this subject ..."

This change was made on recommendation of Secretary Henry C. Wallace and was in accordance with the message he had sent to the American Home Economics Association at their annual meeting in August 1922 at Corvallis, Oregon:

"... we have in mind to greatly strengthen the scientific work of the department as it may be related to home economics. Ultimately I have in view making the home economics work an independent bureau, ranking with the other bureaus of the department, and placing at the head of it a woman of executive ability, thorough scientific training, and broad and sympathetic understanding of what is needed to make such a bureau helpful to the women of the land. I am quite sure that out of such a bureau will come an increasing fund of helpful information which can be taken to the homes through our extension activities."

The bureau took over the activities of the Office of Home Economics, which had been a part of the States Relations Service.

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Bureau of Home Economics are two-fold. The first is to study practical home problems and in this manner aid in improving and bettering living conditions. The second is to study "the relative utility and economy of agricultural products for food, clothing, and other uses in the home", which enables the bureau to suggest and recommend plans and methods for effective home use of these products. While it is primarily a research bureau, it also devotes considerable effort to dissemination of the results of its investigations and experiments.

The Bureau of Home Economics is often termed the consumer's bureau in the Federal Government. It was created in 1923 to give scientific study to food, textiles, and economic problems from the homemaker's point of view.

The success of agriculture and industry requires more than efficient production and effective distribution. In the 24,000,000 homes of the Nation there must be a wise utilization of foodstuffs, textiles, and other products. In such consumption the homemaker is the all-important figure. To do her job intelligently she must have the same degree of scientific aid that the Government gives the farmer and other producers. On the homemaker rests a large responsibility in setting the standard of living.

The Bureau of Home Economics is an outgrowth of scientific work on nutrition and household food utilization begun in the Department of Agriculture more than 40 years ago. With the development of rural home demonstration work and the growth of the home economics movement through the land-grant college this early work exclusively on food and dietary problems was expanded to include other phases of home economics. Not until the organization of the Bureau of Home Economics was research on the consumption of agricultural products placed on an administrative level with research into production.

Since the organization of the bureau, Dr. Louise Stanley has been its chief. Associated with her is a scientific staff of 48 specialists in various home economics fields, and a clerical and administrative force of 41.

#### FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATION AND RESEARCH

1924 .....	\$ 71,760	1931 .....	\$207,700
1925 .....	107,634	1932 .....	246,700
1926 .....	117,344	1933 .....	233,365
1927 .....	127,344	1934 .....	169,338
1928 .....	127,344	1935 .....	187,958
1929 .....	142,037	1936 .....	193,485
1930 .....	167,500		

#### ORGANIZATION

The bureau has the following divisions: Foods and nutrition, economic studies, textiles and clothing, and information. In connection with the Office of the Chief are an administrative section and library. The functions of these are too self-evident to need explanation.

The bureau maintains no field staff. Its activities are confined to Washington. In discussing these activities it is difficult to separate the service from the research functions, the two are so closely interrelated.

#### RESEARCH PROJECTS

The following list indicates the scope of the research projects under way in the Bureau of Home Economics during the fiscal year 1935, together with the date at which they were initiated.

##### Utilization of Agricultural Food Products

Home methods of canning pork, beef, veal, lamb, and mutton. In cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry. 1931.

Meat cooking and palatability investigations, to determine the influence of such production factors as breed, sex, feed, and age of the animal on the edible quality of the meat, and to establish scientific basis for meat cookery. In cooperation with the Bureaus of Animal Industry and Agricultural Economics, State agricultural experiment stations, National Livestock and Meat Board, and other livestock and meat agencies. 1925.

The physical and chemical properties of eggs in relation to their cooking



and conditions of storage or processing. In cooperation with the Bureaus of Animal Industry and Chemistry and Soils. 1931.

Yearly variations in the composition of fruit juices used for jellifying and the influence of these on jellifying power. 1931.

Comparison of the different types of lard and other cooking fats with respect to keeping qualities and influence on palatability. In cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry. 1933.

Potato studies: (a) Variation in cooking quality of one variety of potato within one field; (b) the table quality of new seedling varieties; (c) the effect of maturity of potatoes on their cooking quality. In cooperation with the Bureau of Plant Industry. 1929.

Soybean studies: (a) The table quality of new seedling varieties of the green vegetable soybean; (b) utilization of soybean products. In cooperation with Bureau of Plant Industry. 1932.

Losses in preparation and cooking of vegetables and fruits in the home. Fuel (gas and electricity) consumption in cooking vegetables and fruits by recommended methods. 1934.

#### Composition of Foods

Compilation of data on the chemical composition of all classes of foods in cooperation with other Bureaus of the Department and with the State experiment stations. 1934.

Summary of quantitative data on vitamin content of foods. 1932.

Vitamin A, G, and D content of different varieties of nuts. 1934.

Vitamin C content of orange juice and tomato juice. 1935.

Eggs as a source of minerals necessary for good nutrition. 1933.

#### Household Equipment

Home refrigeration: Comparative efficiency of various types of refrigeration under test conditions and conditions of use. 1927.

Electric ranges: Comparative efficiency of various types of electric ranges under test conditions and conditions of use. 1934.

#### Family Economics Investigations

Budgets and budgeting methods for urban families of limited income. In cooperation with the Budget Committee of the National Conference of Social Work. 1932. Budgets for farm families of limited income. In cooperation with the Office of Cooperative Extension Work. 1934.

Nutritive value, cost, and suitability of children's diets. In cooperation with the National Child Research Center, Pi Lambda Theta, children's institutions, and other agencies. 1927.

Food budgets at different levels of income. 1930.

Food purchasing at different income levels. 1932.

Household account books for farm and city families. In cooperation with the Office of Cooperative Extension Work. 1925.

Summary and analysis of family food consumption data at different income levels for both urban and farm groups. 1925.

#### Textile Utilization Studies

Relative durability of different grades of cotton when used in household fabrics. In cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. 1928.

Relation of climatic conditions of cotton to durability of fabrics. Irrigated and nonirrigated cotton. In cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. 1932.

Wearing qualities of knitted cotton and rayon fabrics. In cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. 1934.

Effect of ironing temperatures and pressures on the deterioration of cotton fabrics. 1928.

The development of more permanent and satisfactory mill and laundry finishes for cotton fabrics. 1926.

Improved clothing designs utilizing cotton. 1927.

Buying guides for consumers. 1933.

Chemical deterioration of wool caused by wear and cleaning. 1930.

Physical and chemical properties of household blankets. 1933.

Relative merits of different kinds of new and reworked wool when used in various household fabrics. In cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry. 1930.

Deterioration of Turkish towels during use. 1931.

The use of natural dyestuffs in handicraft work. 1933.